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CODEL PERCY

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN NEW YORK, DAR ES SALAAM, MAPUTO, GABORONE, CAPE TOWN FROM PRETORIA 200710Z APR 76:

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR RH

SUBJ: CODEL, PERCY REPORT ON TALKS WITH MUZOREWA IN LUSAKA

SENATOR PERCY HAS ASKED FOLLOWING REPORT BE TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON WITH COPIES BEING PROVIDED TO:

SECDEF

GENERAL SCOWCROFT

GEORGE BUSH

US PERM REP UN SCRANTON

NADINE JACOBSEN, SEN. PERCY'S OFFICE

PAT HOLT, SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

1. APRIL 17 MEETING WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA IN LUSAKA LASTED ABOUT ONE HOUR AND PROVIDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR CODEL TO ASSESS PERSONALITY AND CURRENT POSITIONS

OF ANC LEADER REPUTEDLY WITH LARGEST FOLLOWING AMONG BLACKS IN RHODESIA. (PRESIDENT KAUNDA TOLD CODEL HE GREATLY PREFERS NKOMO AS RHODESIAN LEADER TO MUZOREWA, BUT NKOMO HAS UNFORTUNATE QUOTE UNCLE TOM UNQUOTE IMAGE AMONG SOME YOUNG RHODESIANS BECAUSE OF ENGAGING IN TALKS WITH SMITH; BISHOP'S TRIBAL POLITICAL BASE ALSO MUCH LARGER THAN NKOMO'S.)

- 2. BISHOP'S MAIN THEME WAS THAT THE ROUTE OF PEACEFUL POLITICAL CHANGE IN RHODESIA HAD BEEN FORECLOSED BY IAN SMITH LEAVING ARMED STRUGGLE AS THE ONLY REALISTIC PATH. QUOTE IT IS STUPID TO TALK WHEN THEY ONLY RESPOND WITH SHOWERS OF BULLETS UNQUOTE. SENATOR SAID DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF THIS WOULD BE USEFUL TO HIM AND BISHOP AGREED TO PROVIDE. SMITH, BISHOP SAID, IS SUPPORTED BY SOUTH AFRICA AND THE WEST. FOR YEARS, THE BISHOP SAID, HE HAS TRAVELED TO AMERICA AND SOUGHT US SUPPORT, ALWAYS IN VAIN. HE MENTIONED BYRD AMENDMENT, AND SENATOR INDICATED STRONG RESOLVE TO WORK FOR ITS REPEAL. BISHOP SAID THIS WOULD BE IMPORTANT INDICATOR OF NEW US POLICY.
- 3. BISHOP ASKED RHETORICALLY IF IT MORE CHRISTIAN TO ALLOW STRUGGLE TO DRAG ON YEAR AFTER YEAR OR TO GET IT OVER WITH QUICKLY. HE SAID LIBERATION FORCES GAINING SELF-CONFIDENCE AND ALSO RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM MANY SOURCES. INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE ARMS AID FROM US FOR LIBERATION FORCES BUT NOT SANGUINE ABOUT GETTING IT. ALSO VERY INTERESTED IN RECEIVING US POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT, WHICH SENATOR INDICATED HE FAVORED. BISHOP SAID HE WAS EARLY PROPONENT OF CALLAGHAN PROPOSAL FOR BUYING OUT THE RHODESIAN WHITES AND HE LOOKS FORWARD TO TIME WHEN THIS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED. HE SAID HE IS NOT FIGHTING AGAINST A RACE BUT AGAINST A RACIST SYSTEM. HE ENVISIONS RHODESIA AS A MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY. ASKED BY CODEL IF A NEW MARXIST LEADERSHIP MIGHT BE EMERGING IN THE GUEERRILLA TRAINING CAMPS FOR RHODESIAN FORCES IN MOZAMBIQUE, THE BISHOP SAID IT WAS QUOTE PREMATURE TO MAKE THAT JUDGMENT UNQUOTE.

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4. SEN. PERCY ASKED IF FORMATION IN US OF PRIVATE FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT VICTIMS AND FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF IAN SMITH'S BULLETS WOULD BE DESIRABLE AND BISHOP REPLIED IT WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT SYMBOLICALLY AS INDICATION OF US PUBLIC SYMPATHIES, AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF MUCH NEEDED NEW US SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICY AND AS STILL ANOTHER SIGNAL TO IAN SMITH AND HIS HARD LINE

SUPPORTERS OF CRUMBLING SUPPORT FOR THEIR POSITION
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